



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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May 22, 2015

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From: Sachi A. Hamai  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

## WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2016 COMMERCE- JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

This memorandum is to provide the Board with an update on the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill, which the House Appropriations Committee approved on May 20, 2015.

### Highlights of the FFY 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill

The Committee-approved CJS appropriations bill increases overall funding for discretionary programs and activities by \$1.275 billion to \$51.378 billion in FFY 2016. The bill reduces overall funding for state and local law enforcement assistance, administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ) by \$333.6 million to \$1.924 billion, but increases funding for the two state and local formula grant programs through which the County annually receives funding.

- **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)** funding, which reimburses state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens, is increased by \$35 million from \$185 million to \$220 million in FFY 2016. The County's most recent SCAAP grant award is \$3.4 million for FFY 2014 when SCAAP's funding level was \$180 million.
- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)** formula grant funding is increased by \$12.75 million to \$345.00 million in FFY 2016. The County's JAG formula grant allocation is more than \$1 million.

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The bill funds a formula grant for DNA analysis and capacity enhancements at \$117 million in FFY 2016, which is the same level as in FFY 2015. The County Sheriff's crime laboratory receives more than \$1 million a year from this formula grant.

The bill's deepest reductions in state and local law enforcement funding are its elimination of funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grant, which was funded at \$180 million in FFY 2015, and the Title II juvenile justice formula grant, which was funded at \$55 million in FFY 2015. In most years, the County neither receives a COPS grant, which is awarded competitively, nor any funding from the State's Title II allocation. However, several years ago, the State used part of its Title II funding to award a grant to the County's Juvenile Court to pilot the specialized "STAR" Court to supervise and serve sexually trafficked youth and a grant to the Probation Department to provide extensive child sex trafficking training.

Of County interest, the bill also reduces funding for trafficking victim service grants and activities by \$17.25 million to \$25.00 million in FFY 2016. While this represents a nearly 41 percent cut, the FFY 2015 funding level of \$42.25 million is nearly triple the FFY 2014 funding level, and the bill's FFY 2016 funding level of \$25 million is roughly double the average amount of funding provided for trafficking victim services in recent years.

Similar to prior years, this FFY 2016 CJS appropriations bill provides DOJ with the authority to decide how much funding each currently authorized trafficking victim grant program and activity will receive. In past years, DOJ never has used any appropriated funds to award grants through the two existing state and local human trafficking grant programs. However, DOJ is using part of its \$42.25 million in FFY 2015 funding to award competitive grants to support multidisciplinary human trafficking task forces, which will be awarded to state or local law enforcement agencies. The County's Sheriff's Department recently submitted an application for such funding.

It is noteworthy that the bill includes \$50 million for a new Community Trust Initiative to improve police-community relations. Of this amount, \$27.5 million is set aside for a new "justice reinvestment initiative" to assist "jurisdictions to implement data-driven strategies to improve public safety by reducing corrections spending and reinvesting those savings in efforts to decrease crime and strengthen neighborhoods." It also sets aside \$15 million for a "body-worn camera partnership initiative," which will include new demonstration grants for the purchase of body-worn cameras for use by police. These demonstration grants will require a 50 percent match by the grantee, and will not cover ongoing costs, such as data storage costs associated with body camera footage.

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### **Legislative Outlook**

House floor action on the FFY 2016 CJS appropriations bill has not yet been scheduled, but is expected to take place in June. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet scheduled any action on its version. The outlook for Senate floor action on the FFY 2016 CJS appropriations bill and the other 11 FFY 2016 appropriations bills is uncertain. This is because Senate Democrats have sufficient votes to use a "filibuster" to delay or block Senate passage of appropriations bills. As in recent years, it is expected that a Continuing Resolution will have to be enacted to temporarily fund Federal programs and activities on or before October 1, 2015, when FFY 2016 begins.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR  
MT:ma

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist